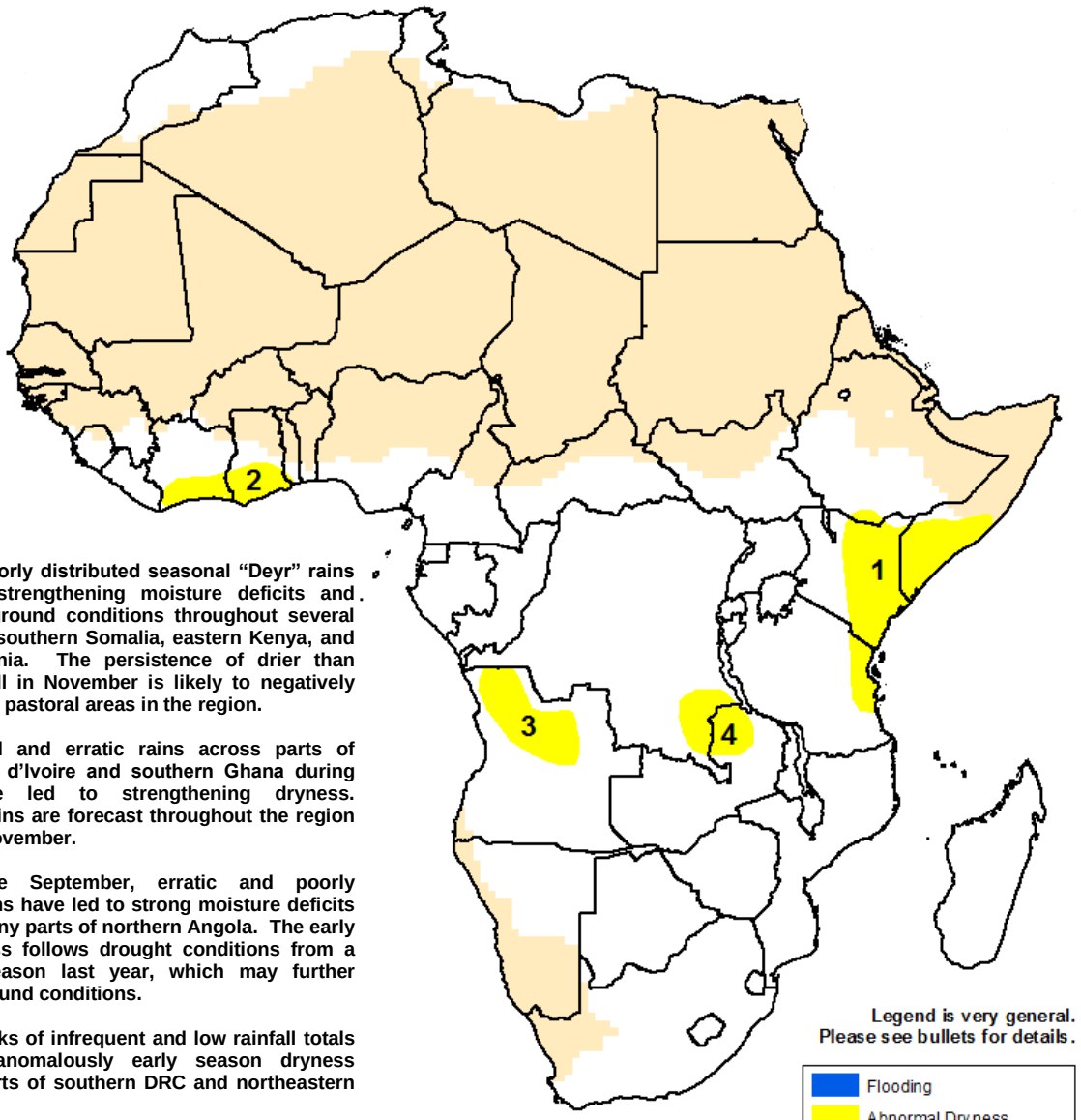
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
November 13 – November 19, 2014

- **Despite a small increase in moisture during the last week, many areas in the Greater Horn remain anomalously dry.**
- **Suppressed seasonal rains lead to strengthening moisture deficits across several regions in southern Africa.**



1) Low and poorly distributed seasonal "Deyr" rains have led to strengthening moisture deficits and deteriorating ground conditions throughout several local areas in southern Somalia, eastern Kenya, and coastal Tanzania. The persistence of drier than average rainfall in November is likely to negatively affect crop and pastoral areas in the region.

2) Suppressed and erratic rains across parts of southern Cote d'Ivoire and southern Ghana during October have led to strengthening dryness. Suppressed rains are forecast throughout the region during early November.

3) Since late September, erratic and poorly distributed rains have led to strong moisture deficits throughout many parts of northern Angola. The early season dryness follows drought conditions from a poor rains season last year, which may further exacerbate ground conditions.

4) Several weeks of infrequent and low rainfall totals has led to anomalously early season dryness throughout parts of southern DRC and northeastern Zambia.

Increased rains lead to much needed ground moisture in Somalia, Kenya.

In the last seven days, an increase in rainfall was received over many anomalously dry areas in the Greater Horn of Africa. Well distributed moderate, to locally heavy amounts of precipitation were focused over much of eastern Kenya and southern Somalia, with moisture improvement also observed further south into portions of coastal Tanzania (**Figure 1**). This past week's rainfall distribution was first period in the season where rains were favorable, which had followed several consecutive weeks' suppressed precipitation mainly during October. Further west, well-distributed low to moderate rainfall was received across western Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, and northwestern Tanzania.

Despite the improving precipitation during the last week, considerable seasonal precipitation deficits remain throughout the region, as more rains are needed to offset the anomalous dryness throughout November. Since the beginning of last month, the most moisture depleted areas remain along the Jubba and Shabelle River basins in southern Somalia, as well as throughout much of eastern Kenya. Here, several local areas have experienced much less than half of their normal rainfall accumulation for the season (**Figure 2**), as this is expected to adversely impact ongoing crop and pastoral activities. Compounding the ground situation has been downstream river inundation in southern Somalia due to consistent above-average rains in eastern Ethiopia during October. Flood affected areas include Belet Weyne, Dollow, Jilib, and Jamane, where nearby cropping areas have reportedly been damaged.

For the next week, seasonally average rainfall is forecast throughout East Africa, with the potential for below-average rainfall along Somalia and Kenya coastline, and heavy convective precipitation in north-central Kenya.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: October 26 – November 1, 2014

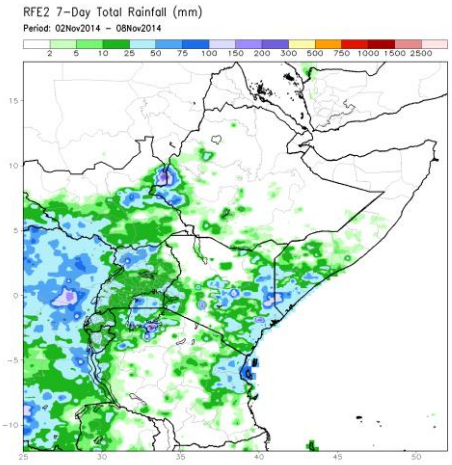


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)
Valid: October 1 – November 8, 2014

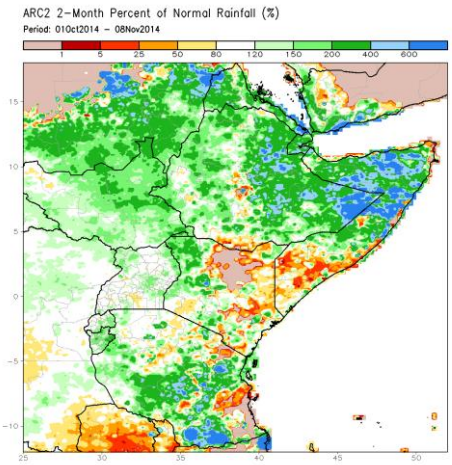


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Suppressed November rains continue to strengthen dryness throughout many parts of Angola, DRC, Zambia, and South Africa.

Since September, the southward migration of seasonal rainfall has been uncharacteristically sluggish, and poorly distributed throughout several regions in southern Africa. In Angola, southern DRC and northern Zambia, erratic and low amounts of October rainfall have led to the development of early season moisture deficits (**Figure 3**). The anomalous dryness in Angola may lead to significant ground impacts, as this region also suffered from drought conditions stemming from a previously poor monsoon at the beginning of this year. Further south, consistently low precipitaiton has also resulted in deteriorating ground conditions in the Maize Triangle region of South Africa, as well as in parts of Swaziland, and southern Mozambique. While a slight increase in precipitaiton is forecast in the region next week, more precipitation is needed to offset the negative moisture anomalies in November.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Percentile (%)
Valid: September 1 – November 8, 2014

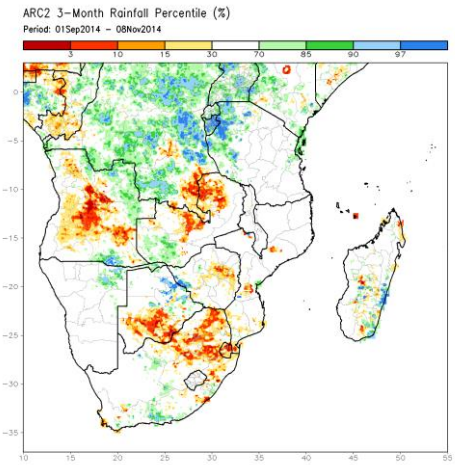


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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